

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROVAL
FOR OTHER THAN FULL AND OPEN COMPETITION

1. Contracting Activity: Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Office of Acquisition Operations
Technology Acquisition Center
260 Industrial Way West
Eatontown, New Jersey 07724
2. Description of Action: The proposed action is for a firm-fixed-price contract for the development of a Multi-User Virtual Environment (MUVE), including training and support services. The period of performance is 12 months from date of award.
3. Description of Supplies or Services: The Office of Information and Technology (OIT), Information Technology Workforce Development (ITWD) requires a Web-Based, educational virtual platform that provides OIT a training environment that can increase productivity and reduce the travel currently required for training. Virtual training technology will seamlessly and effectively deliver desired results, enhance the learning experience and engage learners before, during and after the training. This virtual training/meeting/conference environment will be used to advance VA employees to successfully fulfill their educational objectives. The Contractor shall develop, host, market, maintain and support a MUVE for training of OIT staff. The Contractor shall also provide training instruction and technical support for meetings and conferences within the MUVE. The Contractor shall enhance and integrate existing training courses into the MUVE and deliver training templates and standards to be utilized with the MUVE. Finally, the Contractor shall deliver fixed and portable audio/video production studios and provide operational and technical support for the studios to develop content for the MUVE. The total estimated price of the proposed action is \$ [REDACTED].
4. Statutory Authority: The statutory authority permitting other than full and open competition for this acquisition is 41 U.S.C. 253(c) (5), "when a statute expressly authorizes or requires that the acquisition be made through another agency or from a specified source", as implemented by Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.302-5. For this action, 38 U.S.C. 8127(c), known as the Veterans First Contracting Program, provides the authority to directly contract with a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB).
5. Rationale Supporting Use of Authority Cited Above: The proposed source for this action is STRATCOMM, Inc., 24 Prime Park Way, Suite 103, Natick, Massachusetts, 01760-1541, a verified SDVOSB that is technically capable of developing the required MUVE and supporting services. In September 2012, ITWD technical experts met with STRATCOMM, Inc. to discuss its capabilities in the areas of virtual training development, delivery, and operational services, and determined it is technically capable of meeting the Government's requirements for development, implementation, and operation of the virtual training environment as well as training

development and implementation services. STRATCOMM, Inc. has provided these services to other federal agencies and has experience working with VA.

6. Efforts to Obtain Competition: Market research was conducted and the details are contained in the market research section below. In addition, consistent with the guidelines of the Veterans First Contracting Program, the proposed action described herein will be synopsisized on the Federal Business Opportunities Page in accordance with FAR Part 5.
7. Actions to Increase Competition: All future requirements will be handled on a case-by-case basis to determine any future acquisition strategy.
8. Market Research: Market research was conducted by searching the VetBiz.gov database on September 7, 2012 to determine if STRATCOMM, Inc. is a SDVOSB. This search concluded that STRATCOMM, Inc. is registered and verified in the VetBiz.gov database and qualifies as a SDVOSB in accordance with the federal small business size standards for the applicable North American Industry Classification System code 541512. It was verified on September 7, 2012 that STRATCOMM, Inc. is registered in the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database and is eligible to receive a Government contract. The technical experts from ITWD have determined that STRATCOMM, Inc. is technically capable of meeting the Government's requirements for this effort.
9. Other Facts: The Procuring Contracting Officer has determined that this proposed action meets all the requirements of 38 U.S.C. 8127(c). This acquisition is below the \$5,000,000.00 threshold STRATCOMM, Inc. has been determined to be a responsible SDVOSB for performance of the services herein, and the proposed contract can be awarded at a fair and reasonable price.